GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2323
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2001
INCIDENTS OF COMMUNAL VIOLENCE
GULAM MEHMOOD BANATWALLA

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of instances of communal violence which have occurred since April 1, 2001;

(b) the details of these instances including the names of places and losses suffered therein;

(c) whether the Government have issued any guidelines to the States in regard to dealing with such instances;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the- reaction of State Governments thereto; and

(f) the steps taken to maintain peace and communal harmony in the country ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (I.D.SWAMI)

(a) & (b): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of The House.

(c) to (f): `Public Order` and `Police` are State subjects as per the Constitution of India and registration, investigation and detection of crimes as well as prosecution are the primary concern of the State Governments. As such statistical data in this regard are to be maintained at the State Level.

In so far as the Union Government are concerned, the Government have been providing assistance to the State Governments in a variety of ways to tackle the incidence of communal violence both administrative and promotional in a sustained manner. This includes assistance in improving their policing infrastructure, sending alert messages periodically, sharing intelligence with them, providing Central Para-military Forces including the composite Rapid Action Force specifically established to tackle communal disturbances, and issuing guidelines form time to time to promote communal harmony in the country as well as advising them to watch the activities of disruptive and fissiparous elements who try to destroy the secular fabric of the country and its integrity.

A booklet containing comprehensive Guidelines covering various aspects of dealing with communal problems have also been issued in October 1997 to all the State Govts./Union Territory Administrations. The Union Government have repeatedly made it clear that acts of violence against the minority communities wherever and in whatever form they occur, must be dealt with sternly and the culprits punished promptly.

In pursuance of this objective the State Governments/ UT Administrations have been advised to respond promptly to complaints of atrocities/ harassment of the minority communities and initiate prompt and effective action to identify and punish the guilty. They have also been requested that the District Magistrates/Superintendents of Police be made personally responsible to look into each case of reported attack/atrocity on the members of the minority communities and their institutions for taking immediate action to bring the culprits to book.